Under the Investment Component of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) 29 Projects amounting to Rs. 1193.25 crore were sanctioned for Rajasthan during 10th Plan. The share of Government of India in the total was Rs. 491.23 crore (Rs. 192.92 crore as Loan and 298.31 crore as Grant). Government of India has released Rs.434.28 crore (Rs 192.92 crore as Loan and Rs. 241.36 crore as Grant). The State has arranged Rs. 415.53 crore from Financial Institutions/own resources. The State has utilized Rs. 762.36 crore (64%) out of the sanctioned project cost. An amount of Rs. 137.71 crore has also been released to Rajasthan as incentive for achieving reduction of cash loss under the incentive component of the programme.

Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), during the 10th Plan, 25 projects at a cost of Rs. 453.23 crore were sanctioned for Rajasthan. These projects covered the electrification of 15608 villages and 1009310 rural households. During the 11th Plan, 16 projects at a cost of Rs. 614.80 crore were sanctioned for the electrification of 19233 villages covering 1221077 rural households in Rajasthan.

Share of Rajasthan in hydro-electric projects of Punjab

†257. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to send the claim relating to the share of Rajasthan in hydro-electric projects of Punjab to the Supreme Court for its advice; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken by the Central Government to prescribe the share of Rajasthan in projects specified in the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Government of India on 10.05.1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana and Rajasthan for sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam project, UBDC Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer the matter to the Supreme Court for its opinion. The opinion of the Supreme Court was to be sought on whether the States of Rajasthan and Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State.

However, subsequently in the discussions held between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 29-30 July, 1992 and 6th August, 1992, a consensus was reached not to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. It was also decided that the States would come to a reasonable agreement through mutual consultations. In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place. However, no consensus has emerged so far due to the divergent views of the stakeholder States. Meanwhile, the State of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Punjab has enacted the 'Punjab Termination of Agreements Act 2004', terminating and discharging the Government of Punjab from its obligations under the agreement dated 31.12.1981 between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on reallocation of waters and under all other agreements relating to the waters of Ravi-Beas. Government of India has made a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court inter alia whether the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 and the provisions thereof are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

Setting up of mega power plants

258. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have been invited to build, own and operate mega power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the rationale behind permitting the foreign Companies to invest/participate in this strategic sector; and

(c) what safeguards are built into the agreements to prevent any company from resorting to arm twisting practices in the grid management of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the electricity sector was announced in 1991 with the objective of bringing in additionality of resources for the capacity addition programme which subsequently included Mega Power Projects. Since then privately owned enterprises, including foreign companies have been allowed in the electricity sector.

After the enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for setting up of thermal power plants including those in the private sector. In case of hydel projects, concurrence of CEA is required under Section 8(1) of the Electricity Act for setting up of a hydro power generation station estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding the sum notified by the Central Government.

Further, under the existing policy of the Government, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in the power sector on the automatic route wherein no prior approval of the Government is required except when the foreign investor has an existing collaboration/joint venture in the same sector.

(c) Grid management and operation is the responsibility of the Load Dispatch Centre which is to be operated by a Government Company or organization as per sections 26, 27 and 31 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Section 28 of the Act provides that the Regional Load Dispatch Centre (RLDC) shall be the apex body to ensure integrated operation of the power system in the